



Price of a barrel of petroleum
US\$ 70.76
↓ 1.90

INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS
JAPAN POLITICS



Yukio Hatoyama, who will be Japan's next prime minister, arrives to attend a meeting of his Democratic Party of Japan, in Tokyo, Japan, on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009. Hatoyama rallied his party and huddled with senior allies to finalize his Cabinet selections Tuesday as parliament prepared to formally elect him as the country's next leader.

See International News on Page B8

SPORTS NEWS
RAY OF HOPE



Tampa Bay Rays Reid Brignac follows through on a triple against the Baltimore Orioles in the seventh inning of a baseball game, Monday, Sept. 14, 2009, in Baltimore. The Rays won 8-4.

See Sports Today on Page B11

Neckermann introduces 24 new agents to Aruba

Dutch Travel Agents enjoy Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Recently, a group of 24 travel agents from Holland representing the well-known travel agency Neckermann, visited and enjoyed all of the great hospitality of Aruba. The group stayed at the Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort and enjoyed all of the fun activities on Aruba including a sailing trip aboard one of Red Sail Sports 60 foot Catamarans. The group of travel professions was accompanied by Neckermann Representative Nicole van den Bosch and Aruba Tourism Authority Representative Mandy López. The group is pictured on Eagle Beach enjoying the pristine atmosphere and admiring Aruba's famous Divi Divi Tree. □



Chavez Trades Oil for Arms in Moscow



Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Moscow, Russia
(Photo by the Web site of the president of the Russian Federation).

Richard Weitz

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's latest visit to Moscow resulted in a package of arms and energy deals that highlight the mutually beneficial nature of the current Russian-Venezuelan relationship.

Facing declining purchases from traditional arms clients, such as India and especially China, Russia has sought to compensate by expanding arms sales to new markets, including in Latin America. For the most part, however, Russian sellers have not

been able to achieve major successes, despite Latin American countries doubling the volume of weapons they purchased between the periods of 1999-2003 and 2004-2008. Although the share of Russian arms exports going to Latin America between these periods did jump from 1 to 7 percent, the rise has been due largely to the purchases of one country: Venezuela.

The Venezuelan interest in Russian arms, meanwhile, stems from the arms embargos imposed by the United States against the left-wing government of President Hugo Chavez, which culminated in a total ban in May 2006. Prior to these sales restrictions, Venezuela imported almost 80 percent of its defense equipment from the United States and Western Europe. From 2005 to 2007, however, Venezuela signed a dozen contracts with Russia to buy a total of \$4.4 billion worth of weapons.

Continued on Next Page

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Chavez Trades Oil for Arms in Moscow



Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev, left, shakes hands with Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez as they pose for pictures during a welcoming ceremony at the Miraflores palace in Caracas, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008.

Continued from Front Page

The deals involve helicopters (50 Mi-28Ns), jet fighters (24 Su-30MK2s), and anti-aircraft systems (the TOR-M1). Other major purchases have included combat helicopters (10 Mi-35s), heavy transport helicopters (3 Mi-26s), multirole helicopters (40 Mi-17s), and hundreds of thousands of rifles, including AK-47 and AK-103 models.

The volume of these purchases transformed Venezuela into Moscow's fourth-largest importer of Russian arms during the 2004-2008 period, with 7 percent of Russia's aggregate exports, ranking behind only China (42 percent), India (20 percent) and Algeria (8 percent). The Russian government also agreed to let Venezuela manufacture Kalashnikov AK-103 automatic assault rifles domestically under license, though the necessary factory has apparently never begun construction.

Chavez acknowledged seeking closer defense ties with Russia partly in response to the United States embargo, which Chavez last week characterized as an effort to disarm his country so that the U.S. could seize Venezuela's energy resources. He noted, for instance, that the United States refused to sell spare parts for the F-16s and other combat aircraft the Venezuelan Air Force had previously purchased. U.S. officials have also prevented

U.S. allies from selling military equipment to Venezuela.

The U.S. weapons restrictions resulted from claims by American and Colombian security experts that Venezuelans were supplying weapons to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas in neighboring Colombia. The ban applies to all American companies and also to foreign weapons that contain American-made components, a provision that has blocked proposed weapons sales from Europe and Israel. Chavez's reaction to the embargo, as he explained to the media during a 2008 visit to Moscow, was to "head to Moscow."

Following his latest visit there, Chavez stated that Venezuela would buy 92 advanced T-72 tanks, an indefinite number of Smerch multiple-launch rocket systems (MLRS), and a variety of air defense systems. This Russian-based multi-layered air defense network would include short-range Pechora, medium-range Buk-M2, and possibly the long-range S-300 surface-to-air missile system. The S-300s are capable of hitting planes flying over Colombia or those conducting surveillance flights from the U.S. military installations on the islands of Aruba or Curaçao in the Netherlands Antilles, which are situated off Venezuela's coast.

In making the announcement, Chavez stressed that the

weapons are "defense tools." Neither Chavez nor Russian officials have announced possible delivery dates for the shipments. Nevertheless, State Department Spokesman Ian Kelly expressed concern yesterday about the magnitude of Venezuela's past and planned purchases of Russian military equipment, which he noted was far greater than that of any other South American country. Expressing concerns about the purchases provoking a regional arms race, Kelly called on Venezuela to make them more transparent and to ensure against the diversion of weapons "to any irregular or illegal organizations in the region," an allusion to the FARC.

The statements, which resemble those of the Bush administration, are a stark contrast to the Obama administration's earlier language regarding Chavez. A few months ago, for instance, Obama officials were expressing a general interest in improving relations with Venezuela. In May, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton argued that the tense relations between the Bush administration and some Latin American states had caused these countries to turn to Russia, China, and Cuba. "From my perspective," Clinton told a town hall meeting in the State Department, "the prior administration tried to isolate them, tried to support opposition to them, tried to turn them into international pariahs. It did not work."

But the efforts to reconcile with Chavez proved short-lived, with the Venezuelan leader expressing particular alarm at the Obama administration's plans to increase U.S. military deployments in neighboring Colombia to combat narco-terrorism in that country.

Moscow welcomes Venezuelan interest in Russian weapons, coming at a time when the economic downturn has increased the importance of arms sales to the Russian economy. During Chavez's two-day stay in Russia last week, the two governments also

signed a bilateral cooperation agreement on joint projects and another agreement to protect intellectual property when they engage in military cooperation. The Russian and Venezuelan defense ministries also signed an accord to promote military exchanges and training.

The two governments appear to have found a mutually acceptable formula for the sale of high-ticket items, like the T-72 tanks. Chavez said that Russia would provide a \$2.2 billion loan to finance the sales, allowing Venezuela to avoid cutting spending on education and health. By loaning Venezuela the sums required to resume purchasing major Russian military systems, Moscow simultaneously supports Russian arms exports while reinforcing Russian-Venezuelan security ties. In addition, Russia received other benefits in return for the loan, leading Medvedev to describe Russian-Venezuelan relations as having reached a qualitatively higher level and to call Venezuela Moscow's "most important partner" in South America.

In addition to the arms contracts, Chavez's visit resulted in a diplomatic breakthrough for Russia as well as closer energy cooperation. Chavez announced during his meeting in the Kremlin that his government would recognize the independence declarations of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the two regions of Georgia that proclaimed their sovereignty following last August's Russia-Georgian War. Chavez called the step a "manifestation . . . of the formation of the multipolar world which is now a reality," while Prime Minister Vladimir Putin praised Chavez for resisting Western pressure on the issue. "Beyond any doubt, this step confirms the independent nature of Venezuela's foreign policy," Putin said at the opening of his meeting with Chavez.

The two governments also announced several major energy deals that will provide Russian firms with extensive

access to Venezuela's oil and gas resources. During Chavez's visit, the Venezuelan president signed an intergovernmental framework accord promoting economic and energy cooperation between Russia and Venezuela. Russian and Venezuelan companies also signed several specific cooperation agreements, the most important of which established a joint venture between Venezuela's state oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PDVSA), and a consortium of five Russian energy companies, including Rosneft, Lukoil and Gazprom. The resulting joint venture could invest \$20 billion to develop the Junin 6 oil field located along Venezuela's Orinoco River. Venezuela is the largest oil exporter in Latin America and, like Russia, has extensive natural gas reserves as well.

Russian officials have previously sought to deepen energy ties by raising the possibility of helping Venezuela develop nuclear power - a prestigious technology hitherto available only to Argentina and Brazil on the continent. After Putin met with Chavez in September 2008, the Russian prime minister said, "We are ready to look at the possibility of cooperation in the use of nuclear energy." More recently, Chavez again stressed that a Venezuelan nuclear program would only be for peaceful purposes such as conducting medical research or generating electricity. But any Russian assistance that helped Venezuela develop sensitive nuclear technologies that could also be used to manufacture nuclear weapons would be bound to arouse proliferation concerns as well as fears about reigniting the low-level nuclear arms race that prevailed in South America during the 1970s and 1980s.

As hard as the Obama administration's efforts to engage in a direct dialogue with Iran and North Korea might seem, trying to pry Venezuela away from Moscow's tight embrace could prove even harder. □



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Get the Island Feel

Havana Nines coming into Paseo Herencia on September 26



PALM BEACH – The posters hanging in the windows announcing the anticipated-arrival of Havana Nines at Paseo Herencia created a buzz among those who love to dress elegantly.

Havana Nines, a contemporary fashion retailer with stores at Pembroke Gardens and Aventura Mall, Miami, enjoys an avid fan-base among professionals who enjoy great day time looks that could also

last them into the night. The concept store, stylishly designed and fully stocked by Havana Nines, offers a top line of men's apparel with Cuban flavor, and also features a very attractive, sexy and cool line of clothing for their women. The Havana Nines look caught on like fire in Miami, as there is now an increased interest in Latino culture among all demographics, and the appeal of guayaberas, Cuban cigars and Mojitos is universal. The style of clothing offered by Havana Nines relates directly to that Miami-Beach retro-feel and mixes the glamour and suaveness of Cuba with an upbeat, fun lifestyle. The look is tropical and sophisticated just like the shop décor which will feature espresso wood, crisp white lines, and mojito green walls. Debra Mansur, Managing Director, reports that the untucked linen shirts in bright shades and basic neutrals, with touches of classic embroidery, will soon be available and worn in Aruba delivering the island feel to locals and visitors. The countdown to September 26th is on . . . ☐



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Melissa celebrates birthday at Tango Restaurant



PALM BEACH - On Sunday the 13th of September, Melissa from Holland celebrated her birthday together with friends at Tango Restaurant.

Melissa has lived for a year on Aruba to succeed her internship of the International Hospitality management education.

On Sunday, she celebrated her birthday with a

nice 3-course dinner at Tango Restaurant. The early bird menu started with a delicious burned onion soup followed by a mouthwatering piece of Argentina fillet mignon.

To end the evening in style, the group enjoyed a cup of coffee with a nice desert. All employees of Tango restaurant wish Melissa one more time a successful and healthy year. ☐



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-LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ELECTION 2009

WHY A VOTE IS NECESSARY FOR THESE NEW YOUNG & DYNAMIC POLITICAL CANDIDATES

Aruba is faced with tremendous challenges in the tourist sector - the main pillar of our economy. These challenges come from our Caribbean neighbours and in the immediate future, Cuba. Eight years of failed policies and incompetency have affected our hard working families and businesses due to old political and self serving habits. As responsible citizens we need to put these bad practices aside, and allow these new young and dynamic leaders to set the Island on a peaceful, prosperous and healthy path.

These challenges and opportunities will be met powerfully and effectively through a shift in Island tradition and mentality, which is already taking place. These new young professionals are doing an amazing job of opening up the political process and bringing as many people as possible in the political forum - there is too much at stake for anyone to sit on the sidelines and do nothing.

This is a historic moment - and it's also a chance to show your leadership on Election Day - by working together to build a better future for ourselves and our families for decades to come.

Each one of our responsible

citizens can make a substantial difference as to the course of this beautiful and loving Island we call Aruba. By making that commitment on September 25, 2009, you are indeed taking a significant role in the transformation of Aruba. The question arises, "How can we support and contribute to that process? How can we do our part as individuals to make sure we're going in a positive, harmonious and non confrontational direction?"

The simple answer to that question is to vote for this team of new young dynamic leaders with their proven record in the private and commercial arena. There is a quote attributed to Mahandas Gandhi that says:

"You must be the change you wish to see in this world".

On September 25, 2009 you will have a unique opportunity. It will be possible for you to be part of changing the future of Aruba. This opportunity rests in your hands as you enter the voting booth. It will be your responsibility to PAUSE-BE STILL-REFLECT and VOTE for one of these new and dynamic candidates with their tremendous abilities to communicate and negotiate effectively domestically-with our partners within the Kingdom and Internationally; which is an absolute prerequisite for success and essential in today's fast changing and sophisticated

world. One candidate that positively meets these standards is Michelle Winklaar candidate #7 on the AVP list. It will be your opportunity to be part of history and change your future and that of your family and the long term potential of the Island.

Per Drucker said: "The best way to predict the future is to create it".

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The Jolly Pirates are prepared for all eventualities



PALM BEACH -- Aaron J. M. Antersijn, Safety & Security Consultant of Security Solutions Consultancy, recently concluded a First Aid & CPR course on board the Jolly Pirates preparing the Captain and the crew for

all eventualities from treating cuts and bruises to performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation correctly. Antersijn covered the theoretical materials and then conducted a joint practice session on deck, reviewing

specifics for adults, children and infants. The course covered the use and practice of the abdominal thrusts, also known as the Heimlich Maneuver and the use of the Automated External Defibrillator or AED, which



automatically diagnoses the potentially life threatening cardiac irregularities and is able to treat them through defibrillation. Antersijn reports that his students showed great interest, welcoming the chance to practice their own reaction to a real-life situation removed from real-time stress and

the danger to human life. "CP is an excellent skill to practice," Antersijn confirms, "imagine if we could practice all of life's eventualities in the class-room, at ease, how much better our reactions would be, under duress." Pictured here, the Jolly Pirates who are now certificated and prepared. □

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lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice

and a salad for \$19.95. For entertainment Casa Tua Barcelona offers a Live Flamenco Show on Friday Nights while you can dance on the rhythms of salsa & bolero performed by a live band on

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All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

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dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

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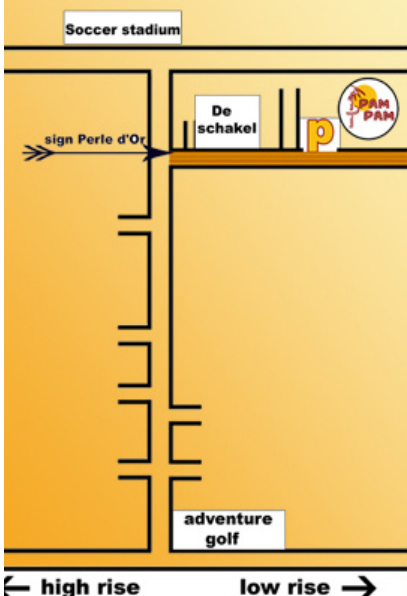
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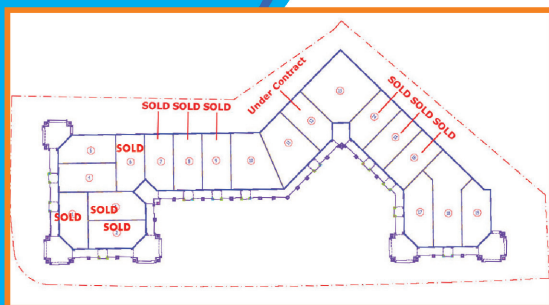
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AirTran Adds Aruba Flights



AirTran Airways on Sept. 15 released schedules for new flights from its hubs in Atlanta and Orlando, Fla., to Aruba, a popular island tourist destination in the southern Caribbean.

The low-cost airline, a subsidiary of AirTran Holdings Inc., will begin Saturday flights from Atlanta on Dec. 19 and from Orlando on Feb. 13, 2010, assuming it gets final government approval for the routes.

The new route is AirTran's fifth to the Caribbean and supplements recently announced service to Montego Bay, Jamaica, and Nassau,

Bahamas.

An AirTran spokesperson told GlobalAtlanta at the time those routes were announced that the Aruba flight was not as far along in the U.S. Transportation Department approval process as the other two flights.

Aruba is a part of the Netherlands Antilles, a chain of Dutch island territories of the northwestern coast of Venezuela that also includes Curacao and Bonaire.

AirTran's only international flight to a non-island destination is a route to Cancun, Mexico, that started this year. □

Practical scenario

The Democratic Party's suggestion to determine beforehand an end date for the term of the Antillean Parliament to be elected on January 22, 2010, (see Saturday paper) makes sense. After all, the current such legislature was supposed to be the last one because the Netherlands Antilles is being dismantled, with St. Maarten and Curaçao to become autonomous countries in the Dutch Kingdom as Aruba already did in 1986, while Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba have opted for the status of overseas public entities of the Netherlands as the so-called BES islands.

The most recent agreements call for these new relations within the Kingdom to take effect no later than October of next year, with 10-10-10 being mentioned as possible target date. As the decision was taken to go ahead and elect a new Antillean Parliament to take office less than seven months before that anyway, providing the voting public with clarity that its lifespan will only be for such a short period seems the right thing to do, also in light of the commitments made towards the process of constitutional change. Even so, the prospect of going to the polls to elect a body to be dissolved so soon afterward is hardly an attractive one. The same can be said for having elections again by early August 2010, this time for the Parliaments of the new countries St. Maarten and Curaçao to take office two months later.

While the Island Territories involved understandably would prefer to stick to the end of October next year deadline for the Netherlands Antilles to stop existing and the new relations to become a reality, the decision to have Antillean Parliament elections despite the original proposal to forego them pending the constitutional changes – based on a less-than-positive response from the Netherlands Antilles Advisory Council – has consequences. Like it or not, the 10-10-10 scenario is simply no longer a practical one.

The fact is also that the current Island Councils of the Antillean islands were all voted into office for a four-year period that ends on July 1, 2011. The same argument of clarity towards the voters can be made for allowing these Island Councils to complete their full terms and having the new relations take effect on 01-07-11 instead, as already suggested by FOL leader Anthony Godett. That would give the vote on January 22 greater meaning, as the Antillean Parliament to be elected would be in office at least for 15 months, rather than just seven. The fact that July 1 is Emancipation Day marking the official end of slavery in the Dutch Kingdom makes that date all the more appropriate. □

Finding true love after 40 can happen on Face Book

Lynn & Clifford exchange rings & vows on the beach



ceremony performed by Rev. Geoffrey and coordinated by Desiree Biker of the Wedding Department of the Aruba Marriott Resort. They enjoyed a fabulous cake cutting

ceremony, beautiful sunset, champagne toast and intimate reception culminating with a romantic honeymoon at the Aruba Marriott. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



PALM BEACH - Lynn Ehrenreich and Clifford Running were married on the beautiful beach at the Aruba Marriott Resort and Casino this past Saturday afternoon just before the sun set into the Caribbean Sea. Lynn and Clifford fell in love at a class reunion after not seeing each other since 7th grade and knew instantly that they were meant to be together forever. Clifford had a Jr. High School

crush on Lynn and just before the class reunion, he became Face Book Friends with Lynn just before their Class Reunion.

The couple started communicating and falling in love online, so when the Class Reunion happened, they were already friends and head over heels in love.

Lynn & Clifford enjoyed their special day with close friends on the beach with a breathtaking



Moby Dick's Chantal van Leeuwen

Chantal celebrates birthday at Texas de Brazil



PALMBEACH—Transplant from Holland, Chantal van Leeuwen celebrated her birthday on Monday night at Texas de Brazil with close friends. Chantal not only celebrated the birthdays past but made sure to have enough fun for all the birthdays to come at the islands favorite Churascuria Texas de Brazil. Chantal works at Moby

Dick's Seafood Restaurant where not only does she love to work, the clients always come back for seconds when Chantal is working. Chantal and friends enjoyed her birthday with a never-ending flow of choice cuts of grilled certified Angus beef, chicken, lamb, pork & sausage, slow-roasted over an open flame, seasoned to perfection and accompanied



by extravagant forty-item seasonal salads, roasted vegetables, soup and side items.

Congratulations to Chantal van Leeuw from Aruba Today. □

Photos by Julia Renfro



HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

My computer's background picture changes depending on what is going on. Having recently returned from a trip to New England, today's picture is a lined country road of shedding trees in fall colors of gold and red. Every autumn I feel full of anticipation. I used to think it was the "eager student" in me seeking academic renewal. There have been years when this enthusiasm confused me; shouldn't we feel more hopeful in the spring when everything is blooming? However, my background in anthropology reminds me mythology tells the excitement of autumn has to do with harvesting/planting rites and rituals.

Many cultures commemorated the autumn harvest with festivals. In ancient Greece, women participated in a three-day celebration in honor of Demeter, mother/grain goddess and the sowing of seeds. After a fall harvest, there is replanting and hope for what the future yields. In the spring, we have the flowering and growth but a decrease is on the horizon--the collection of the crops, a death.

In order to honor the Demeter, rites of renewal had to happen in the fall BEFORE spring could occur again (bringing the return of her daughter Persephone). The psychic significance of this pattern is still with us today, and was incorporated into our own farming customs and eventually

This Fall Equinox

our educational school system, including an October school break originally intended for children to be available to participate in the harvest. So it does feel magical in the fall; the future is being re-seeded in each of us; especially when I see my children leave to school.

September 1st is New Year's Day in the Greek religious year. As the start of the autumn sowing season, Greek farmers take seeds to church to be blessed. Rosh Hashanah began on September 16 this year was the start of the Seven Days of Awe, a chance to make changes on one's personal life in preparation for the festival of atonement, Yom Kippur. The rabbis wrote, "One is judged on Rosh Hashanah and one's doom is sealed on Yom Kippur." Four things cross out the doom of a person: righteousness expressed through gifts of charity; real prayer; change of name and change of conduct." Some Jews rename themselves on this day to get a truly new start. In medieval England, "Michaelmas" on September 29 functioned as the start of a new business year, a time for making contracts, paying rent, hiring servants, holding court and starting school.

Autumn means Halloween; one of the world's oldest holidays, and called by different names, is still celebrated today all around the globe. This autumn rite is

commemorated in the United Kingdom with a distinctive British twist. In Ireland and Canada, Halloween, which was once a frightening and superstitious time of year, is celebrated much as it is in the United States, with trick-or-treating, costume parties, and fun for all ages.

In Mexico, Latin America, and Spain, All Souls' Day, which takes place on November 2, the third day of the three-day Halloween observance, is the most important part of the celebration that begins on the evening of October 31. The celebration is designed to honor the dead who, it is believed, return to their earthly homes on Halloween. Many families construct an altar to the dead in their homes to honor deceased relatives and decorate it with candy, flowers, and photographs, samples of the deceased's favorite foods and drinks, and fresh water. Often, a wash basin and towel are left out so that the spirit can wash before indulging in the feast. Candles and incense are burned to help the deceased find the way home.

Here in Aruba, as in all of Latin America, we tidy the gravesites of our departed family members. This can include snipping weeds, making repairs, and painting. The grave is then decorated with flowers, or wreaths.

Our sensitivity to the changes in light and the coming shorter days, even here in Aruba is part of the importance of this pattern. It has to get dark before it can get light again. "Primitively, perhaps light results from darkness; the darkness covers the light, and, just as a man awakes with the light, so light appears when the darkness is lifted from it, like a lid". Your psyche is aware that this change in seasonal patterns of light and dark signals the time for regeneration.

Traditional Chinese medicine sees our individual bodies as a reflection of what is happening seasonally on our planet. Appropriately, we can discuss the harvest of our health. After identifying and removing toxins in our bodies and absorbing the beneficial foods and supplements for our metabolic body types, we start to reap the benefits of health. True health is more than the absence of disease and includes having the vibrant energy to live life fully. With a solid great health foundation, we can start developing our anti-aging strategies.

Get The Point! I think it is important to identify and honor autumnal feelings of hope with new personal health rituals of our own; especially as our culture becomes increasingly hectic. Take time to construct your own ritual, with candles and light, to honor your love of this time of regeneration. Make an appointment for a medical



consultation so we can show you how. Take some time to reflect and make it a chance to make changes in your personal life in preparation for a healthy future.

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CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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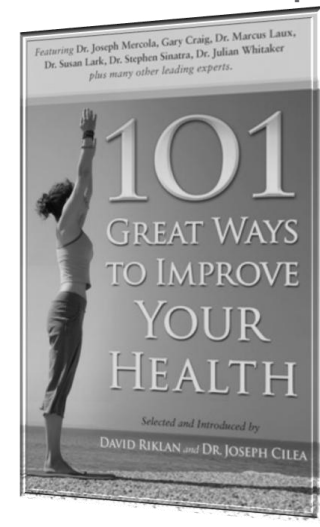
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Stocks rise on retail sales, manufacturing data



FILE - In this Monday, Sept. 14, 2009 file photo, a television screen on the floor the New York Stock Exchange shows President Barack Obama as he speaks at Federal Hall. Tougher financial rules that had seemed inevitable after last year's crisis have been stymied by industry lobbying, government turf battles and a stabilizing banking system. If efforts to tighten oversight of the industry fail, some fear a future crisis is inevitable.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

By **TIM PARADIS**,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Better news on retail sales and manufacturing helped send stocks higher Tuesday, as did comments from Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke that the recession was probably over.

Surging materials and industrial companies like Alcoa and Caterpillar pulled the Dow Jones industrial average to a gain of 57 points, its seventh climb in eight days and another high for the year. Manufacturers are expected to be among the early beneficiaries if the economy strengthens and demand picks up.

Hopes for a rebound grew after the government reported that retail sales jumped in August by the biggest amount in three years. The Fed's index of manufacturing in the New

York region rose to its best level since late 2007.

Those doses of positive economic news helped allay concerns about a separate government report finding that inflation at the wholesale level rose last month at double the rate analysts expected.

Meanwhile, Bernanke cheered investors by saying that the worst recession since the 1930s has "very likely" ended, though he cautioned that problems like high unemployment will remain.

Investors have been betting on a recovery. The Standard & Poor's 500 index, the benchmark for many mutual funds, has surged 55.6 percent since skidding to a 12-year low in March.

Stocks zigzagged in morning trading before gaining steam in the afternoon, similar to the way trading played out Monday. Analysts say the

slow-building gains are a sign that investors are pouncing on dips to get into the rally.

The short bouts of selling have meant the market has advanced without the sizable break, which many analysts still say is overdue. Even when the news isn't good, market sentiment seems immune to developments that would have punctured the rally only months ago.

Investors shrugged off news that wholesale prices rose 1.7 percent jump last month, and disappointing earnings from two major retailers, Best Buy Co. and Kroger Co., also failed to push the stock market off course.

"You want to say that the market is a little bit tired after the run we've had yet we continue to grind higher," said Ryan Larson, senior equity trader at Voyager Asset Management.

The Dow rose 56.61, or 0.6 percent, to 9,683.41, its highest close since Oct. 6, when it finished at 9,956.

The S&P 500 index rose 3.29, or 0.3 percent, to 1,052.63, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 10.86, or 0.5 percent, to 2,102.64. All three indicators are at their highest levels for 2009.

More than two stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 1.5 billion shares compared with 1.2 billion Monday.

The government's report that retail sales jumped 2.7 percent in August boosted confidence in the economy. Analysts say improvements in consumer

spending are crucial to a recovery.

Even after stripping out the sizable gains from the government's popular Cash for Clunkers program, sales rose 1.1 percent, well beyond the rise of 0.4 percent expected by analysts.

Commodity and industrial stocks rose as a weaker dollar pushed up materials prices. Alcoa Inc. added \$1.05, or 8.1 percent, to \$13.99. Caterpillar Inc. rose \$2.93, or 6 percent, to \$51.70.

Gregg S. Fisher, chief investment officer at financial advisory firm Gerstein Fisher in New York, said despite the recent gains investors could still run into trouble.

"Investors are always following the herd. I think investors should sort of catch themselves now and not get overconfident," he said.

The market's latest gains

came one year after the Dow tumbled 500 points following the collapse of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., which deepened the recession.

In other trading, bond prices fell.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.46 percent from 3.43 percent late Monday.

Crude oil rose \$2.07 to settle at \$70.93 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Gold also rose after the report on inflation. The metal is often used as a hedge against rising prices.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 4.81, or 0.8 percent, to 604.84.

Overseas, Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.5 percent, Germany's DAX index rose 0.2 percent, and France's CAC-40 added 0.6 percent. Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 0.2 percent □

Cautious optimism for economy as August sales jump

By **CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER**,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Retail sales jumped in August by the largest amount in more than three years, but economists warn that as long as credit stays tight and jobs remain scarce, Americans probably aren't ready to spend in force again.

Underscoring just how fragile the economic recovery is, Best Buy said Tuesday that customers are spending less in its electronics stores, and Kroger said grocery shoppers are still buying only what they need for the next week, or even the next meal.

Continued on Next Page



In this Aug. 26, 2009 photo, Big K diet orange bottles, a Kroger Co. brand, go by on a conveyor belt at a Kroger plant in Cincinnati. The Kroger Co. said Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009, second-quarter profit fell nearly 8 percent, as households cut spending more deeply and food prices fell.

(AP Photo/Al Behrman)

Kroger cuts guidance as 2Q profit falls 8 pct

By DAN SEWELL,
AP Business Writer

CINCINNATI — The nation's largest grocery store operator says worried shoppers are still cautiously stretching their dollars by coming in more often while buying only what they need right away and at the lowest prices.

Kroger Co. reported Tuesday that its second-quarter profit fell nearly 8 percent. The company cut its outlook for the year amid intense competition for the attention of customers the grocer expects to remain conservative.

"Consumers throughout the U.S. obviously are going through a lot of trauma," David B. Dillon, Kroger's chairman and CEO, told investors in a conference call.

Kroger shares tumbled \$1.65, or 7.5 percent, to close at \$20.46.

"They are being forced to keep their prices down or move even lower," said Doug Conn, managing director of New York-based Hexagon Securities. "Consumers are nervous, and are looking at every purchase with equal importance, from the large-ticket items to what they're eating for lunch or dinner."

Here are some other trends Kroger officials are marking as unemployment rises and households tighten budgets:

- Sales are strong for deli foods and meals prepared in the store as people shy away from restaurants.
 - Many customers are seeking discounts on national brands; others are trading down to the lowest-priced brand — even among store brands — particularly Kroger's no-frills "Value" items.
 - Sales are falling at the end of the month when household money runs low, and more customers are paying with food stamps.
- Meanwhile, price battles among grocers, bargain chains and big-box retailers, led by Wal-Mart Stores Inc., are cutting into Kroger's profit.

"This is not surprising, because customers are spending less and retailers are aggressively competing for their dollars," said W. Rodney McMullen, Kroger's president and chief operating officer.

And revenues were hurt by falling prices for milk, produce and other staples plus lower gas prices at Kroger service stations. But Kroger officials say they are gaining market share and new regular customers.

They say will continue their focus on long-term growth and expect sales to pick up by the fourth quarter. □

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM

Continued from Page 12

The gains for August included a big jump in auto sales, mostly from the government's recently ended Cash for Clunkers program. Retail sales overall rose by a seasonally adjusted 2.7 percent, the largest gain since 2006, the Commerce Department said.

Economists were cautious.

"We need more data to see if this is sustainable or just noise," Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, wrote in a research note. "The income and credit constraints on consumers remain intense." Even though the recession is probably technically over, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Tuesday, "It's still going to feel like a very weak economy for some time." Auto sales were up 10.6 percent, the biggest gain in almost eight years, mainly because of the recently ended clunkers program. Gas station sales increased 5.1 percent, as prices at the pump rose.



In this photo made Friday, Sept. 4, 2009, Jeff Buzhaker looks at Acer laptop computers at a P.C. Richard & Son appliance store in New York. The Commerce Dept said Tuesday, Sept. 15, retail sales rise more than expected in August; sales excluding autos up 1.1 percent.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

Excluding those two categories, sales rose 0.6 percent — still the best performance in six months. "That's a pretty good rate — if it was sustained," said Brian Bethune, chief U.S. financial economist at IHS Global Insight. Consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of the nation's economy. Analysts note that Americans are saving more even as their incomes stay flat. If they don't consistently

spend more, the economic recovery could weaken next year. Bethune said retail sales last month were helped by tax holidays in several large states, including California, Texas and Florida, and school openings were delayed in some places because of budget constraints. Both factors probably pushed some back-to-school sales from July into August, giving that month's sales figures a lift, he said. □

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*** Human Hints Daily ***

Ancient Indian Text Decoded - Part 3

For the past two days, we've been immersed in the Bhagavad Gita, an Ancient Indian text that addresses the Human predicament of being stuck in the hologram, the illusion of three dimensional matter. Krishna, a God in Human form, tells the General Arjuna that he must be absolutely passionate in the pursuit of a goal, and be completely detached emotionally from the outcome. Give it your all and don't care at all about the result. Its not if you win or loose, it's how you play the game.

All that matters is your intent and the passion with which you act. What you see as success and failure are completely meaningless and are, in fact, one and the same. They are different polarities of the same energy, as are all opposites in three dimensions. That is the mystery behind the Holographic Illusion.

I know, you're reading this on your Blackberry, stuck in

traffic, late for everything, with the kids fighting in the back. Thanks for the Ancient Wisdom, now give me something I can use! Removing your emotions from the outcome of your pursuits seems irrational and impossible. I understand if you're confused.

When our goal is to achieve success or to win, we miss the point of enjoying the challenge, the action, the rush of participating in life. When athletes pull off amazing feats, they are in the zone, fully focused on the immediate action in the now moment.

They are not even thinking about the opponent. They are not thinking about winning or losing. I would be willing to bet that Michael Jordan never thought about winning or losing. He just played the game.

How do we separate our emotions from the outcome of our pursuits? By understanding and knowing that the result doesn't matter. Success and failure,

winning and losing, are two sides of the same coin, opposite polarities of the same energy.

We often don't get what we expect from our efforts. Life has its own way of bringing our desires to fruition. A disappointment is just an unexpected turn. Life knows what direction is right for us, even when we don't.

When we are emotionally attached to the outcome, we become powerless because we have no control over the final result. When we do our best and don't care about the outcome, we embrace our personal power because we control how passionately and intently we pursue our goals.

The whole concept of success and failure is ridiculous anyway. Failure is learning and success is confirmation that we've learned.

By definition, all polarity

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is based on separation, and separation is the realm of our Ego. Among many other things, the Bhagavad Gita shows us how to defeat our own Ego, so that we can express ourselves freely in higher dimensions, while remaining in the Human body.

Tomorrow, we will explore the Human Ego...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science

and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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KEEP ARUBA CLEAN...

Freemasons await Dan Brown novel 'The Lost Symbol'



FILE - In this May 3, 2009 file photo, writer Dan Brown poses during the photo call for the World Premiere of the movie 'Angels & Demons', in Rome.

(AP Photo/Andrew Medichini, file)

By HILLEL ITALIE,
AP National Writer

WASHINGTON — The lodge room of the Naval Masonic Hall is a colorful and somewhat inscrutable sight for the nonmember, with its blue walls, Egyptian symbols, checkered floor in the center and high ceiling painted with gold stars.

Countless secrets supposedly have been shared in this and thousands of similar rooms of the Masons around the world. Facts of life have been debated, honors bestowed, rituals enacted. You would need to belong to a lodge to learn what really goes on.

Or you could simply ask.

"The emphasis on secrecy is something that disturbs people," says Joseph Crociata, a burly, deep-voiced man who is a trial attorney by profession but otherwise a Junior Grand Warden at the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia. "But it's not a problem getting Masons to talk about Masonry. Sometimes, it's a problem getting them to stop."

Despite all the books and Web sites dedicated to Freemasons, the Masonic Order has been defined by mystery, alluring enough to claim Mozart and George Washington as members, dark enough to be feared by the Vatican, Islamic officials, Nazis and Communists. In the United States, candidates in the 19th-century ran for office on anti-Mason platforms and John Quincy Adams declared that "Masonry ought forever to be abolished."

And now arrives Dan Brown.

Six years after Brown intrigued millions of readers, and infuriated scholars and religious officials, with "The Da Vinci Code," he has set his new novel, "The Lost Symbol," in Washington and probed the fraternal order

that well suits his passion for secrets, signs and puzzles.

Brown's book, released Tuesday, has an announced first printing of 5 million copies and topped the best-seller lists of Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble online. At Kramerbooks in Washington, about two dozen copies were purchased the morning it went on sale and the store expects to easily sell out its order of 150 books.

In "The Lost Symbol," symbolist Robert Langdon is on a mission to find a Masonic pyramid containing a code that unlocks an ancient secret to "unfathomable power." It's a story of hidden history in the nation's capital, with Masons the greatest puzzle of all.

Brown's research for "The Da Vinci Code" was highly criticized by some Catholics for suggesting that Jesus and Mary Magdalene conceived a child and for portraying Opus Dei — the conservative religious order — as a murderous, power-hungry sect.

The Mason response could well be milder. Brown goes out of his way in "The Lost Symbol" to present the lodge as essentially benign and misunderstood. Masons are praised for their religious tolerance and their elaborate rituals are seen as no more unusual than those of formal religions. The plot centers in part on an "unfair" anti-Masonic video that "conspiracy theorists would feed on ... like sharks," Langdon says.

"I have enormous respect for the Masons," Brown told The Associated Press during a recent interview. "In the most fundamental terms, with different cultures killing each other over whose version of God is correct, here is a worldwide organization that essentially says, 'We don't care what you call God, or what you think about God, only that you believe in a god and let's all stand together as brothers and look in the same direction.'"

"I think there will be an enormous number of people who will be interested in the Masons after this book (comes out)," Brown said.

Crociata and other Washington Masons expressed amusement, concern, resignation and excitement about Brown's novel. Crociata anticipates a "page-turner," like "The Da Vinci Code," and assumes, for the sake of a "good read," that Brown will make the Masons seem more interesting than they actually are.

Fellow Mason Kirk McNulty can't wait to read the novel: "Dan Brown is a writer of fiction; he's not writing an article for the Encyclopedia Britannica. Whatever he says is OK. But it would be better if he says something nice about Freemasonry."

Mason Michael Seay says some members are "not pleased about all the hoopla," but sees the attention as a chance to "get our story across." Lodge member Darryl Carter says he expects some "artistic license" and senses from conversations with other Masons that they expect to benefit from the attention. □



Kanye West takes the microphone from best female video winner Taylor Swift as he praises the video entry from Beyonce at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards in New York, September 13, 2009.

REUTERS/Gary Hershorn

West apologizes to Swift, Obama weighs in on furor

By Alex Dobuzinskis

Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Rap star Kanye West personally apologized on Tuesday to country teen star Taylor Swift after a two-day furor over his hijacking of an awards speech that even drew an off-the-cuff comment from President Barack Obama.

Swift, 19, said she had accepted West's apology in a private telephone call made after she appeared on the ABC TV talk show "The View."

"He was very sincere in his apology and I accepted that apology," Swift told ABC News Radio after receiving the call.

But Swift, the biggest-selling artist of 2008 in the United States with more than 4 million albums, said West's actions had shaken her up.

"I'm not going to say I wasn't rattled by it," Taylor said on "The View." "I had to perform live five minutes later so I had to get myself back to the place where I could perform."

West had expressed regret twice on the Web and in a TV appearance on "The Jay Leno Show" for taking the microphone from Swift at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, and saying that R&B star Beyonce should have won Swift's trophy.

His outburst drew boos from the crowd and celebrities and music fans voiced their displeasure with West, a Grammy winner whose hits include "Stronger" and "Heartless." A handful of radio stations in California and Florida said they would stop playing West's music in protest.

Even Obama entered the fray, calling West a "jackass" in an off-the-record portion of a political interview on TV given by the president gave this week. The remark was widely circulated by an ABC journalist who posted it on the social networking website Twitter. ABC swiftly apologized.

Sunday's outburst is not the first time West has made headlines for his behavior. In 2005, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina's devastation of New Orleans, West said then President George W. Bush did not care about blacks.

Earlier this year, West was charged with battery, theft and vandalism over a 2008 scuffle with paparazzi in Los Angeles.

On "The Jay Leno Show" on Monday, West told Leno he needed to take "time off" to analyze and improve his life. □

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tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners.

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Adobe to buy Omniture for \$1.8B, 3Q profit slides



which makes Flash, Acrobat and Photoshop software, said it will buy Omniture for \$21.50 per share in cash, a premium of 24 percent over Omniture's closing stock price Tuesday. Omniture shares jumped nearly 26 percent in extended trading. The announcement came as Adobe said it earned \$136 million, or 26 cents per share, in the fiscal third quarter that ended in August, down 29 percent from the same time a year earlier.

Excluding one-time items, Adobe earned 35 cents per share, a penny above what analysts polled by Thomson Reuters were expecting. Adobe said revenue fell 21 percent to \$697.5 million, inching past analyst expectations of \$686.2 million.

Omniture, based in Orem, Utah, offers a variety of Web traffic analysis and other products for companies to improve their marketing over the Internet. The acquisition would marry Omniture's

services for figuring how to best deliver messages with Flash and other Adobe tools for creating Web sites and ads. Omniture services could then be used to monitor how effective the messages are.

Trip Chowdhry, an analyst with Global Equities Research, said the planned acquisition would allow Adobe to create new streams of revenue even as its existing businesses decline. Though he called the deal "very timely," Chowdhry believes he thinks Adobe is overpaying for Omniture. He said \$12 to \$13 per share — rather than \$21.50 — would have been a fair value for the company.

Adobe's shares took a hit in after-hours trading, falling \$1.50, or 4.2 percent, to \$34.12. The stock had closed at \$35.62 in regular trading earlier Tuesday.

Omniture's shares, meanwhile, soared \$4.47, or 25.8 percent, to \$21.79 after-hours. The stock closed at \$17.32, up 32 cents. □

Aruba TODAY

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DRIVE

NEW YORK - Adobe Systems Inc. said Tuesday it will buy the Web analytic software company Omniture Inc. for about \$1.8 billion, giving the maker of content-creation software a way to let marketers measure the effectiveness of such content. San Jose, Calif.-based Adobe,



The US Vice President Joe Biden sits ahead of his meeting with the top US commander in Iraq Gen. Ray Odierno, left, and US Ambassador to Iraq Christopher Hill in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009. Four mortar shells landed in the Green Zone as Vice President Joe Biden arrived in Iraq Tuesday on a previously unannounced mission to help the country resolve its differences ahead of America's military withdrawal.

Associated Press

Baghdad Green Zone attacked during Biden visit

DAVID RISING

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — Four mortar shells landed in the Green Zone as Vice President Joe Biden arrived in Iraq Tuesday on a previously unannounced mission to help the country resolve its differences ahead of America's military withdrawal.

The shells were heard as they were fired from across the river on the east bank of the Tigris and at least one explosion was audible. There was no immediate word on any casualties or damage in the Green Zone or in any other areas of the capital.

The U.S. military said they had initial reports that "one round of indirect fire impacted near the International Zone, not in it." The International Zone is the official name for the Green Zone, the walled off area in the heart of Baghdad that is home to government offices, the U.S. and British embassies and parliament. It was unclear where Biden was at the time of the attack. Warning sirens sounded in the protected zone shortly after the blast.

The three-day trip is Biden's third this year and is a chance for him to meet with the full range of Iraqi leaders both in Baghdad's central government and those of Iraq's self-governing Kurdish region, whose boundaries with the

rest of the country have become a volatile fault line.

Biden said after a meeting with Gen. Ray Odierno, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, and U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill that he was in Iraq to help "resolve outstanding political issues" so that "when we leave we have a more stable Iraq."

The U.S. is to withdraw all combat forces by the end of August 2010 and fully withdraw the remaining 50,000 troops by the end of 2011 as part of a security agreement signed between the two countries. There are now about 130,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.

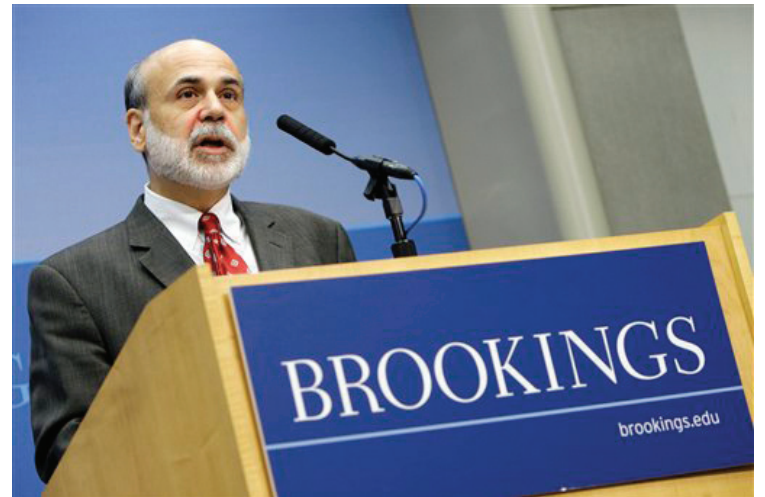
Biden said that Odierno was optimistic that the readiness of Iraqi forces would allow the U.S. military to withdraw as planned.

The Iraqi government also plans to hold a national referendum on the agreement in conjunction with the January elections. If approved, the referendum would require all U.S. forces to leave within one year — well ahead of the existing plan to withdraw completely by the end of 2011.

Biden said of the referendum that "it is likely to happen." But he added that "there are a number of steps that still need to be taken."

"I'm not sure it's settled yet," he added.

Continued on Page B7



Federal Reserve Bank Board Chairman Ben Bernanke speaks at the Brookings Institution in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009.

Associated Press

Bernanke says recession 'very likely over'

JEANNINE AVERSA

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Tuesday the worst recession since the 1930s is probably over, although he cautioned that pain — especially for the nearly 15 million unemployed Americans — will persist.

Bernanke said the economy likely is growing now, but he warned that won't be sufficient to prevent the unemployment rate, now at a 26-year high of 9.7 percent, from rising.

"From a technical perspective, the recession is very likely over at this point," Bernanke said in responding to questions at the Brookings Institution. "It's still going to feel like a very weak economy for some time because many people will still find that their job security and their employment status is not what they wish it was."

Continued on Next Page

AP source: 'Person of interest' in Yale killing

RAY HENRY

SUSAN HAIGH

Associated Press Writers

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP) — Police have identified a "person of interest" in the killing of a Yale University graduate student whose body was hidden for days in a wall in a university research building, a Connecticut state official said Tuesday.

The official has firsthand knowledge of the police investigation into the death of 24-year-old Annie Le and would not elaborate on what was meant by "person of interest." The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is continuing.

A spokesman for New Haven police, who have been extraordinarily tight-lipped during the investigation, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Police said earlier Tuesday that they had questioned 150 people in connection with the death of Le, who vanished Sep.

Continued on Page B5

Panel recommends U.S. keep some color-coded alerts



FILE - This March 12, 2002, file photo, shows the color-coded terrorism warning system in Washington.

Associated Press

EILEEN SULLIVAN
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP)

— A special task force recommended Tuesday that should the Obama administration keep color-coded terror alerts, the number of colors and levels of risk should be reduced from five to three.

The recommendations resulted from a 60-day bipartisan review of the often-ridiculed color-coded terror alert system.

The task force was divided whether the colors should be eliminated, but all agreed that if the administration does choose to keep the colors, there should be only three tiers, said Fran Townsend, former homeland security adviser to President George W. Bush. Townsend, who co-chaired the task force, explained the recommendations during a teleconference Tuesday.

The color-coded terrorism advisories have long been

derided by late-night TV comics and portrayed by some Democrats as a tool for Bush administration political manipulation.

Under the current system, green, at the bottom, signals a low danger of attack; blue signals a general risk; yellow, a significant risk; orange, a high risk; and red, at the top, warns of a severe threat. It was put in place after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks and was designed to help emergency responders prepare. The national threat level never has been below the third one, yellow: an elevated or significant risk of terror attack.

“There should be a focus on lowering the alert status,” Townsend said.

The task force recommended that the lowest level be “guarded.” The task force did not disclose during the teleconference Tuesday what it thought the other two levels should be called,

or what colors should go with any of the proposed three levels.

In its 17-page report, the task force suggested the administration use these tiers:

—Yellow or guarded: constant state of vigilance to protect against a terrorist attack.

—Orange or elevated: increased protective measures based on specific threat information regarding a known or suspected terrorist plot.

—Red or high alert: maximum protective measures to protect against an imminent or current terrorist attack.

Some members of the task force argued for scrapping the system altogether, but that move could prove complicated because many local governments have policies and procedures triggered when the federal government changes the alert level. □

BERNANKE

Continued from Page B1

The recession, which started in December 2007, has claimed a net total of 6.9 million jobs.

With expectations for a lethargic recovery, the Fed predicts that unemployment will top 10 percent this year. The post-World War II high was 10.8 percent at the end of 1982.

Some economists say it will take at least four years for the jobless rate to drop down to a more normal range of 5 percent.

Even if the economy logs “moderate” growth in 2010, unemployment is likely to stay elevated, Bernanke suggested. “Unfortunately, unemployment will be slow to come down. It will come down but it may take some time,” he said. “Obviously, that’s a very serious concern.”

Drugmaker Eli Lilly & Co.

said Monday that it will cut 5,500 jobs over the next two years, 14 percent of its work force, as it restructures the company into five units.

Still, Bernanke’s declaration that the recession likely ended marked his most optimistic assessment yet of the economy. And his remarks came on the same day that the government report that retail sales jumped 2.7 percent in August, the most in more than three years.

Last month, Bernanke told a Fed conference in Wyoming that economic activity appears to be “leveling out” after declining sharply at the end of last year and into the beginning of this year. He also said that the global economy was just “beginning to emerge” from recession.

Bernanke’s speech to at Brookings was identical to the one he delivered at the Fed conference.

Analysts predict the U.S. economy is growing in the current quarter, which ends Sept. 30, at an annual rate of 3 to 4 percent. It shrank at a 1 percent pace in the second quarter, much slower than in previous quarters.

Bernanke said the economy is coping with “ongoing headwinds,” including hard-to-get-credit for consumers and businesses, and households saving more, spending less and trimming their debt. Those forces can weigh down the recovery, he said.

Other analysts worry that falling house prices could hamper the broader rebound, especially if they cause consumers to tighten their belts.

While many on Wall Street have been encouraged by early signs of stabilization in U.S. home prices and hope the housing market may have hit

bottom, others aren’t so sure. Deutsche Bank analyst Karen Weaver on Tuesday predicted that national home prices won’t stop sliding until next summer and likely will fall another 10.5 percent from this summer’s levels. Bigger declines are expected in cities like New York, Salt Lake City, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Baltimore.

Against that backdrop, Michael Williams, dean of Touro College’s Graduate School of Business, disagreed with Bernanke’s assessment that the recession probably ended. Williams maintains that troubles in both the residential and commercial real-estate markets are prolonging the downturn.

Williams believes the economy is still shrinking and won’t turn around until later next year. “This recession lingers,” he said.

Meanwhile, Bernanke said he is optimistic that Congress will enact a revamp of the nation’s financial rule book to prevent a future crisis from happening.

“I feel quite confident that a comprehensive reform will be forthcoming,” Bernanke said. President Barack Obama on Monday urged Congress to enact legislation this year.

“This has just been too big a calamity and too serious a problem” over the past year, with the near meltdown of the U.S. financial system, for Congress not to take action, Bernanke added.

He spoke one year after Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy, the largest in U.S. history.

It’s collapse roiled financial markets worldwide, nearly halted the flow of credit and almost brought down the entire U.S. financial system. □

U.S. military chief wants more troops for Afghan war

By ANNE GEARAN

AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's top military adviser endorsed an increase in U.S. forces for the worsening war in Afghanistan on Tuesday, setting up a split with leading Democrats in Congress and complicating an already-tough decision for the president himself.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the war is growing more complicated and the enemy gaining in sophistication. Winning will require more resources from outside Afghanistan, including more troops, Mullen told Congress. "A properly resourced counterinsurgency probably means more forces, and without question, more time" and dedication, Mullen said.

Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the U.S. commander in charge of both American and NATO forces in Afghanistan, delivered a grim assessment of the war to Washington last month and is expected to follow up soon with a request for thousands of additional troops and more equipment. That will leave Obama to decide whether to expand a war that polls say is rapidly losing public support in the U.S. and drawing pointed criticism in Congress. He has already roughly doubled the size of the American

military force in Afghanistan since taking office, with only limited gains to show. Obama has an ambitious strategy to turn around a war that will soon enter its ninth year, and his aides say the plan needs time to work.

Mullen said he does not know how many additional troops McChrystal will request, but he left no doubt that the commander has concluded that the 21,000 U.S. troops Obama has already approved are not enough.

Sitting opposite Mullen, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Armed Service Committee was unswayed. Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan warned the White House last week that he does not want to see a request for more troops until the United States takes bolder action to expand Afghanistan's own armed forces.

"Providing the resources needed for the Afghan Army and Afghan police to become self-sufficient would demonstrate our commitment to the success of a mission that is in our national security interest, while avoiding the risks associated with a further increase in U.S. ground combat troops," Levin declared at Tuesday's hearing.

Several other Democrats have said they want a clearer timeline and measures of progress from the administration before

approving large expansions of the troop commitment or mission. Congress has approved most of the money Obama requested for the war so far, but a large troop increase would probably require a separate add-on spending bill.

The head of the House's defense spending panel, Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., this week questioned the logic of adding troops.

"In Vietnam it took 500,000 troops and that didn't solve the problem," the Vietnam veteran told the foreign policy blog The Cable. "We have to take a different approach."

Recent national polls indicate slipping support for the war



Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Michael Mullen testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009, before the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on his reappointment.

Associated Press

and growing doubt that it can be won. The latest AP-GfK survey found that less than half — 46 percent — now approve of Obama's handling of Afghanistan, a 9 percentage point drop since July.

A CNN poll conducted this month said 39 percent

supported the war and 58 percent opposed it. That compared with 53 percent supporting and 46 percent opposing in early April, days after Obama announced a new war strategy and vowed to provide resources in ways his predecessor had not. □

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'You lie' comment draws House vote of disapproval



Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., with his wife Roxanne, speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009. The House voted to admonish Wilson over his "You lie" outburst to President Barack Obama during the president's health care speech to Congress last week.

Associated Press

**BEN EVANS
JIM ABRAMS**

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bitterly divided House of Representatives formally reproached Rep. Joe Wilson on Tuesday for shouting "you lie" to President Barack Obama during a speech to Congress last week.

The rare resolution of disapproval was pushed through by Democrats insisting that Wilson, a South Carolina

Republican, had violated basic rules of decorum and civility in his outburst. Republicans characterized the vote as a witch hunt, and Wilson, surrounded by Republican supporters, refused to back down on his insistence that he owed the House no apology.

The mainly party-line vote was 240-179.

Wilson's shout came during Obama's speech after the president commented that illegal aliens would be

ineligible for federal subsidies to buy health insurance. Republicans expressed their disbelief with sounds of disapproval, punctuated by Wilson's outburst.

Such personalized expressions of disrespect for the president are unusual during speeches to the combined House and Senate. Since the 1980s, shouts of disapproval for policy statements have been relatively common, but not ones that disparage the president personally.

The Office of the House Historian said the resolution marked the first time in the 220-year history of the House that a member had been admonished for speaking out while the president was giving an address. A resolution of disapproval is less severe than other disciplinary action available to the House, including censure or expulsion.

"The resolution is not about the substance of an issue but about the conduct we expect of one another in the course of doing our business," said House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, the Democratic leader

on the House floor. Hoyer sponsored the resolution with the party's third-ranking official, Rep. James Clyburn, who, like Wilson, represents a South Carolina district.

At the urging of Republican leaders, Wilson telephoned the White House to apologize after his interruption. His party's leaders also stood behind Wilson in objecting to the Democratic decision to criticize him formally.

"We're here on some witch hunt, some partisan stunt, that the American people are not going to respect," said Republican leader John Boehner. Visitors in the gallery applauded that remark, drawing a warning from the chair that such shows of approval or disapproval were not appropriate.

The short resolution said Wilson's conduct was a "breach of decorum and degraded the proceedings of the joint session, to the discredit of the House."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi initially said she was inclined to "move on" and not take further action against Wilson, and Democrats, joined by

some Republicans, told Wilson the issue would go away if he went to the House floor to apologize.

But the five-term conservative remained defiant to the end.

"I think it is clear to the American people that there are far more important issues facing this nation than what we're addressing right now," Wilson said in a floor speech. He said Obama had "graciously accepted my apology and the issue is over."

Democratic leaders, headed by Clyburn, disagreed. "This is not a partisan stunt," said Clyburn, whose district in South Carolina adjoins Wilson's. "I do not participate in partisan stunts, and I think every member here knows that. This is about the proper decorum that should take place on the floor of the United States House of Representatives."

A leading member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Clyburn perceived it as a snub that Wilson held a town hall meeting on health care this summer at a school in Clyburn's district, where Clyburn's children attended, without telling Clyburn.

There also have been suggestions that recent harsh criticism of Obama has been at least partly motivated by race. Democratic Rep. Barbara Lee, current head of the Congressional Black Caucus, said that "today is about the civility and decorum of the House." But she added that we "can't sweep race under the rug — racism is still a factor and must be addressed."

But Rep. Candice Miller, one of seven Republicans speaking for Wilson, argued that "I think what he have here today is a teachable moment and it has nothing to do with race." Still, the dispute has drawn a spotlight on the undocumented aliens. Senators trying to negotiate a bipartisan deal, with the endorsement of the White House, are moving to craft a compromise bill that strengthens verification requirements. That could please some Republicans but also antagonize Hispanic lawmakers sensitive to rules making it harder for people to obtain health care. □

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YALE KILLING*Continued from Page B1*

8 from a Yale research building. Her body was found Sunday, on what would have been her wedding day, stuffed behind a wall in a basement laboratory. They said they did not expect to make an arrest Tuesday.

State prosecutors also blocked the release of autopsy results in Le's death on Tuesday. The chief state medical examiner's office ruled the death a homicide Monday but have yet to say the manner in which Le died.

State's Attorney Michael Dearington did not return a call seeking comment on why his office requested that the autopsy results be delayed.

Authorities were keeping watch on some of Le's co-workers and have descended in large numbers this week

on the home of a Yale animal research technician.

An official parked outside the technician's apartment complex, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) away near Hartford, wouldn't confirm whether police were there to investigate the Le killing, but public records show the technician lives in a first-floor apartment.

A man answering the door Tuesday said the technician wasn't at home and closed the door.

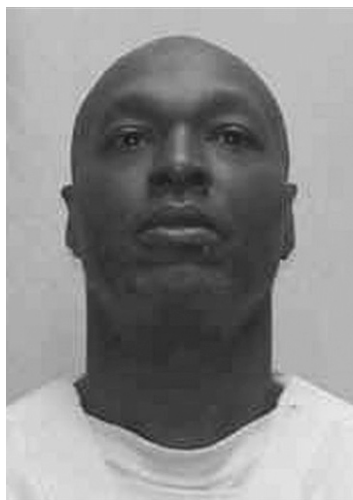
Neighbors said authorities in unmarked cars arrived Monday afternoon and have been following and pulling over drivers in the complex. New Haven police would not comment on the efforts there. Police are analyzing what they call "a large amount" of physical evidence but have not gone into detail.

At a meeting of medical school students and teachers Monday, Yale president Richard Levin said police have narrowed the number of potential suspects to a very small pool because building security systems recorded who entered the building and what times they entered, the Yale Daily News reported Tuesday. The appropriate people are being monitored, he said.

Yale spokesman Tom Conroy said he couldn't confirm the report.

The killing took place in a heavily secured building accessible only to students and university employees. It was the first killing at Yale in a decade.

Police found Le's body about 5 p.m. Sunday, the day she was to marry Columbia University graduate student Jonathan Widawsky, lovingly referred



This undated photo released by the Ohio Department of Correction and Rehabilitation shows Romell Broom. Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland ordered a weeklong reprieve for a condemned inmate on Tuesday Sept. 15, 2009, after the Ohio execution team had problems finding the inmate's veins during the lethal injection process.

Associated Press back and covering his face with both hands. His torso heaved up and down and his feet shook, as he appeared to be crying. He wiped his eyes and was handed a roll of toilet paper, which he used to wipe his brow. He sat up at the end of the bed and talked with his execution team.

The team had been asking Broom whether he wanted a break, but he chose to push ahead, as did the execution staff, prisons director Terry Collins said. Collins then insisted on a break and contacted the governor to let him know about the difficulties. □

Governor delays Ohio execution after vein troubles

STEPHEN MAJORS*Associated Press Writer*

LUCASVILLE, Ohio (AP) — Gov. Ted Strickland ordered a weeklong reprieve for a condemned inmate on Tuesday after the Ohio execution team had problems finding usable veins for the lethal injection even after the inmate joined in the effort and tried to help.

Executioners were unable for more than two hours to find veins in the arms of Romell Broom that would accept fluid from an IV without collapsing. Broom, 53, was sentenced to die for the rape and slaying of a 14-year-old Tryna Middleton in 1984.

No Ohio governor has issued a similar last-minute reprieve since the state resumed executions in 1999.

The scene was reminiscent of problems that delayed executions in 2006 and 2007 and led to changes in Ohio's lethal injection process. No Ohio governor has issued a similar last-minute reprieve since the state resumed executions in 1999.

Richard Dieter, director of the nonprofit Death Penalty Information Center, said he knows of only one inmate who was subjected to more than one execution attempt. A first attempt to execute Willie Francis by electrocution in Louisiana did not work, and

he was returned to death row for nearly a year while the U.S. Supreme Court considered whether a second electrocution would be unconstitutional. Dieter said he expects legal challenges will mean Broom will not face execution again in a week's time.

"I think this is going to be challenged, whether under our standards of decency subjecting someone to multiple executions is cruel and unusual ... whether this is in effect experimenting on human beings, whether or not they're sure what works in Ohio," he said.

The team began working on Broom, in a holding cell 17 steps from the execution chamber, at about 2 p.m., four hours after his execution was originally scheduled. That initial delay was due to a final federal appeals request.

After the team spent nearly an hour trying to find a workable vein, Broom tried to help them bring him a quicker death. He turned over on his left side, slid rubber tubing designed to clarify his veins up his left arm, then began moving the arm up and down while flexing and closing and opening his fingers. The execution team was able to access a vein, but it collapsed when technicians tried to insert saline fluid.

Broom then became visibly distressed, turning over on his



Two unmarked police vehicles and a Middletown police car sit side by side monitoring Warfside Commons apartment complex, the home of a Yale animal research technician who worked with murdered student Annie Le, in Middletown, Conn., Tuesday, Sept 15, 2009.

Associated Press

to on her Facebook page as "my best friend." The couple met as undergraduates at the University of Rochester and were eagerly awaiting their planned wedding on Long Island.

Police have said Widawsky is not a suspect and has helped detectives in their investigation.

Le was part of a research team headed by her faculty adviser, Anton Bennett. According to its Web site, the Bennett Laboratory was involved in enzyme research that could have implications in cancer, diabetes and muscular dystrophy. Bennett declined to comment Monday on the lab or Le's involvement with it.

The Yale building where Le's

body was found is part of the university medical school complex about a mile from Yale's main campus. It is accessible to Yale personnel with identification cards. Some 75 video surveillance cameras monitor all doorways.

Her body was found in the basement in the wall chase — a deep recess where utilities and cables run between floors. The basement houses rodents, mostly mice, used for scientific testing by multiple Yale researchers, Alpern said. The death is the first killing at Yale since the unsolved December 1998 death of student Suzanne Jovin. The popular 21-year-old senior was stabbed 17 times about 2 miles from campus. □



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Iraqi shoe thrower released; says he was tortured



Muntadhar al-Zeidi, center, an Iraqi reporter who threw his shoes at former President George W. Bush, speaks during a press conference at the offices of his employer Baghdadiyah TV after his release from a Baghdad prison Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki was deeply embarrassed by his act of protest. Al-Maliki was standing beside Bush at a Dec. 14 news conference when the reporter suddenly shot up from his chair had hurled his shoes toward the podium. Bush was unhurt but had to duck twice to avoid being hit.

Associated Press

HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Iraqi reporter who threw his shoes at former President George W. Bush in protest was freed from prison on Tuesday and, unrepentant, he harshly condemned the U.S. presence in his country and accused authorities of torturing him. Muntadhar al-Zeidi’s stunning act of protest in December made him a hero for many in and outside Iraq.

It struck a chord with millions in the Arab and Muslim worlds who have been captivated and angered by daily images of destruction and grieving since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

But nine months later, there was little public outpouring of support for him, a sign of how things have changed.

Since the incident, U.S. forces have pulled back from Iraq’s cities, significantly lowering the profile of the U.S. military ahead of a planned full withdrawal from the country.

Also, Barack Obama — seen by many Muslims as more sympathetic to their cause — is now in the White House in place of Bush, whom many blamed for unleashing Iraq’s turmoil. Moreover, with some improvements in security, some Iraqis are undecided on whether the invasion was an unmitigated evil as many long depicted it.

A spokesman who works for Bush in his Dallas office declined to comment Tuesday. Talking to reporters after his release, al-Zeidi said he only wanted to avenge his country’s humiliation.

“Here I am, free, but my country remains captive,” he said. “I confess that I am no hero, but I was humiliated to see my country violated, my Baghdad burn and my people killed.”

His protest came on Bush’s final visit to Iraq as president, on Dec. 14. At a press conference, al-Zeidi shot up from his chair and hurled his shoes toward Bush at the podium, shouting “this is your farewell kiss, you dog!” and “this is from the widows, the orphans and those who were killed in Iraq.”

Bush ducked twice to avoid being hit and was unhurt. Al-Zeidi was wrestled to the ground by journalists and security men. The protest was a deep embarrassment to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who was standing beside Bush.

On Tuesday, a pale looking al-Zeidi, in a dark suit, tie and a newly grown beard, spoke emotively of the suffering of Iraqis since 2003, citing that as the motive for what he did. “Simply put, what incited me toward confrontation is the oppression that fell upon my people and how the occupation wanted to humiliate my homeland by placing it under its boots,” he said in a prepared statement he read at the offices of Al-Baghdadiya TV station, where he works and where he went immediately after his release.

He said senior officials from al-Maliki’s government and Iraq’s army tortured him with beatings, whippings and electric shocks immediately after his detention. At least two of al-Zeidi’s teeth appeared to be missing when he spoke at the TV station, but it was not immediately clear whether he lost them due to beatings. Al-Zeidi also said he feared for his life and claimed that U.S. agents wanted to kill him.

In Washington, CIA spokesman George Little dismissed that claim, saying, “That’s so foolish as to warrant no further comment.”

State Department spokesman Ian Kelly acknowledged that al-Zeidi had made serious allegations of rights abuse.

“These kinds of accusation we take very seriously, and we trust that the Iraqi government will take them seriously, as well,” he said.

News of al-Zeidi’s release brought jubilant scenes at his family home, a modest apartment in a central Baghdad commercial district.

Female relatives danced and ululated when al-Zeidi called his brother Uday to say that he was released.

Men performed traditional dances and chanted rhymed verses in his honor. Sweets were handed to the two dozen reporters present and glasses

of sweetened fruit drinks were given to motorists outside. Sheep were slaughtered in his honor and children wore their best clothes, with little girls in satin and lace dresses and boys in dark suits.

Haidar al-Zeidi, a 6-year-old nephew of the reporter, recited a poem composed by his father Dargham. Its refrain was “glory be to the shoes” and referred to Bush as a blood sucker.

Al-Zeidi went from the TV station to an undisclosed location for the night. His brother Uday said the reporter will travel Thursday to Greece for medical checkups and because he had concerns about his safety in Iraq. The owner of Al-Baghdadiya, businessman Aoun al-Khashloug, is based in Greece.


The Cairo-based lawyer for the channel, Anass al-Bayat, said a private plane commissioned by the owner was picking al-Zeidi from Baghdad Tuesday night and flying him to Syria before moving on to Europe. His brother Dargham said he would return home after his medical checkup in Greece to prepare for a tour of the Arab countries to thank his supporters.

He added that they were also contemplating a law suit against Bush on behalf of the Iraqi people.


Al-Zeidi was convicted of assault in March, but his three-year prison sentence was reduced to one because he had no criminal record before the shoe-throwing incident. He was released three months early for good behavior.

His protest was widely celebrated in Iraq and in Arab and Muslim worlds as an act of defiance that spoke for millions who oppose the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and Washington’s perceived bias in favor of Israel. It inspired Internet games and T-shirts and led some to try to offer their daughters to him in marriage.

There were also reports that a Saudi man wanted to pay \$10 million for one of the shoes. A charity run by the daughter of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi bestowed a medal of courage on him. □



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THE ORPHAN

daily: 6:15 8:45
matinee: 12:30 3:30 late show: 11:30

PG

SHORTS

daily: 5:30 7:30 9:45
matinee: 1:30 3:30 late show: 11:45

PG-13

THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE

daily: 7:00 9:15
matinee: late show: 12:00

PG-13

TYLER PERRY'S I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF

daily: 6:00 8:30
matinee: 12:45 3:15 late show: 11:15

NEW

R

INGLORIOUS BASTERDS

daily: 4:30 7:45
matinee: 1:15 late show: 11:00

PG-13

THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE

daily: 4:00 6:30 9:00
matinee: 1:45 late show: 11:30

PG-13


G.I. JOE: THE RISE OF THE COBRA

daily: 6:15 8:45
matinee: 1:00 3:30 late show: 11:15

R

FINAL DESTINATION 4

daily: 5:30 7:30 9:30
matinee: 1:30 3:30 late show: 11:45



PG-13

DISTRICT 9

daily: 5:15 7:45 10:00
matinee: 12:30 3:00 late show: 12:15

Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat



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GREEN ZONE

Continued from Page B1

Biden, who oversees Iraq policy for the Obama administration, made his last visit to the country on July 4 to spend the U.S. Independence Day with the troops. During that trip, he also met with his son, Beau, who is an Army captain serving in Iraq. "I'm coming back to spend time with the Iraqi leadership with whom I might add I have been talking to on a basically weekly basis," Biden said. Iraq's government hopes that on this visit the U.S. vice president will have suggestions on how to ease tension with Syria, which Iraq's prime minister has accused of harboring Saddam Hussein loyalists wanted in recent bombings that killed more than 100 people. Iraqi leaders also plan to discuss their preparations for January's national elections and persistent violence in the country's north, said an Iraqi government official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters. "I think that a successful election is a necessary condition for these outstanding political issue to be resolved," Biden said.

As the number of bombings and other attacks declines elsewhere in Iraq, the north

remains a battleground between Sunni Arab extremists and Iraqi and U.S. forces. Kurdish-Arab tension there also frequently flares into violence.

Biden was to hold talks Wednesday with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and other officials that were expected to focus on Syria, January general elections and the violence in the north.

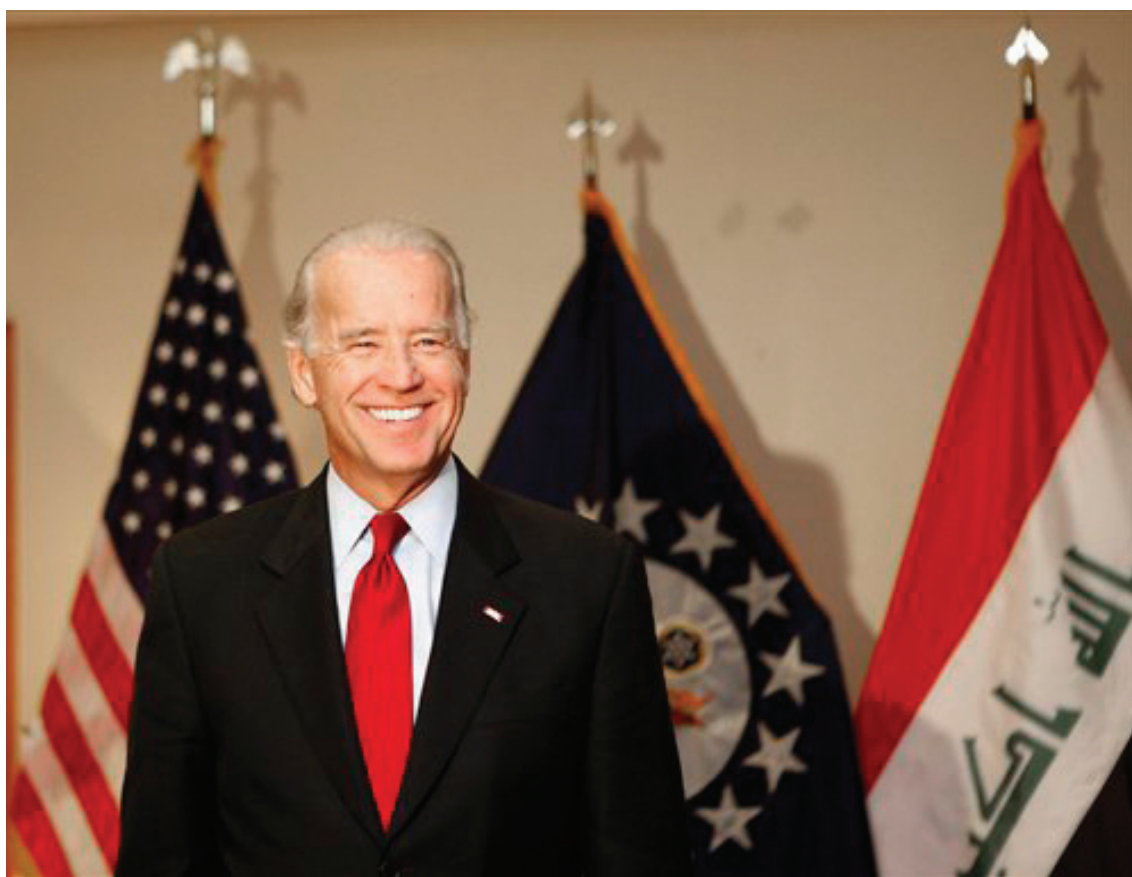
Al-Maliki has demanded that Syria hand over two suspects in the Aug. 19 truck bombings outside the foreign and finance ministries in Baghdad.

Syria says the Iraqi government has failed to provide proof, rejecting extradition requests. The United States has remained largely silent about al-Maliki's accusations, but has said Syria still facilitates the smuggling of foreign fighters into Iraq, and that former members of Saddam Hussein's outlawed Baath party lived in that country.

Odierno said after meeting with Biden that Syria "continues to allow the facilitation of foreign fighters."

"We still believe they continue the facilitation of some of these operations and we have to continue to press Syria to take action," Odierno said.

Biden's visit comes just before senior officials from Syria and Iraq, possibly the two foreign ministers, are to meet in



Istanbul, Turkey, on Thursday in an effort to defuse the crisis. A Turkish-mediated meeting last week in Cairo failed to make any headway.

The accusations are widely seen as an attempt by al-Maliki, a Shiite, to shore up his position before the Jan. 16 elections after the increase in violence in recent months deeply hurt his security credentials. The spat with Syria has also isolated him among Iraqi politicians, just weeks after al-Maliki's Shiite backers dumped him from their political grouping ahead

of the elections.

During his last visit, Biden expressed concern that Arab-Kurdish tensions in northern Iraq might erupt into violence. At the time, all sides acknowledged the importance of moving forward on disputes over internal boundaries, the status of the oil-rich city of Kirkuk and integrating Sunni fighters who fought with the Americans against al-Qaida in Iraq into official security services.

There were signs of friction during the July visit, however, after Biden urged Iraqis to do

more to bring the country's deeply divided factions together. He offered U.S. help, but warned that assistance may not be forthcoming if the country reverts to ethnic and sectarian violence.

That prompted a strong reply from the Iraqi government, which said the U.S. should not be intervening in an "internal issue."

Many Iraqis still identify Biden with his earlier advocacy of splitting up the country along sectarian lines even though the Obama administration rejects that position. □



Democratic Party of Japan leader and likely next prime minister Yukio Hatoyama, left, meets with Japanese Prime Minister and Liberal Democratic Party leader Taro Aso in Diet in Tokyo Monday, Sept. 14, 2009 held ahead of Wednesday's parliament vote to usher in the new government. It was the first time the two had met since Hatoyama's DPJ trounced Aso's LDP in elections last month.

ERIC TALMADGE

Associated Press Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Prime Minister Taro Aso and his Cabinet resigned Wednesday to pave the way for parliament to elect Yukio Hatoyama as the country's next leader.

The top officials resigned after holding their final Cabinet meeting early Wednesday morning, the prime minister's office

said.

The resignations were a formality so that parliament's lower house, now controlled by Hatoyama's party following their landslide election victory last month, can vote him in as Japan's prime minister. Hatoyama's victory ends more than 50 years of nearly unbroken rule by Aso's Liberal Democratic Party.

Hatoyama, head of the left-

Associated Press

Japan's PM, Cabinet resign

of-center Democratic Party of Japan, has promised to shake up Japan's political system, cutting government waste, reinvigorating the world's second-largest economy and focusing policies on consumers, not big business.

Parliament was to convene in a special session later in the day to formally select the new prime minister. Hatoyama's party controls 308 of the 480 seats in the body's lower chamber, which selects the prime minister, virtually assuring him of the post.

"I am excited by the prospect of changing history," Hatoyama said early Wednesday. "I also feel the weight of the responsibility of making history."

He will have a tough job ahead.

His first task would be to name a Cabinet. Media reports said he had already chosen Katsuya Okada as his foreign minister and Hirohisa Fujii as his finance minister. Though Okada

has never held a Cabinet post, Fujii was finance minister under a coalition government in 1993-94, the only time in its 55-year history that the Liberal Democrats had previously been ousted from power.

Hatoyama has a limited pool of seasoned politicians to choose from. His party, created a decade ago, has never held power, and nearly half of the Democrats' members of the lower house will be serving in their first terms in parliament.

Though largely untested in power, Hatoyama and his party face huge tasks that they must deal with quickly.

Japan's economy is in its worst slump since World War II, unemployment is at a record high and wages are falling. The rapid aging of its population also threatens to be a drag on public coffers as the number of taxpayers decreases and pension responsibilities swell.

"The economy is in very difficult shape, so we must

work hard to improve it," said Mieko Tanaka, one of the Democratic Party's new lawmakers.

Hatoyama will also be tested quickly on the diplomatic front. He has said he wants to attend a meeting in the United Nations in New York next week and possibly meet with President Barack Obama.

Hatoyama has said he wants to build a foreign policy that will put Tokyo on a more equal footing with Washington and force closer ties with Japan's Asian neighbors, particularly China.

Some members of Hatoyama's party have said they want to overhaul the U.S.-Japan security alliance under which 50,000 troops are deployed throughout Japan. That idea has met with strong opposition from Washington, although plans are already underway for 8,000 Marines to be relocated from the southern island of Okinawa to the U.S. territory of Guam. □



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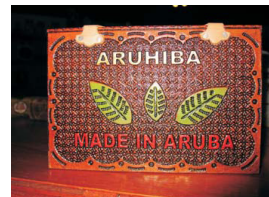
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.



Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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U.S. targets smugglers at Puerto Rico airport

MIKE MELIA

Associated Press Writer

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Nine employees of American Airlines have been charged with participating in a smuggling ring that shipped cocaine from Puerto Rico's main airport aboard flights to the U.S. mainland, officials said Tuesday.

The American Airlines workers, a mix of baggage handlers and other members of the ground crew, were part of a ring suspected of sending at least 19,840 pounds of cocaine over the past decade to destinations that include Miami and Orlando, Florida, and New Jersey, said U.S. Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodriguez.

Agents from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and FBI arrested 22 members of the alleged smuggling ring, including most of the suspects who work at the

airport, during raids early Tuesday. The arrests followed a joint investigation dubbed "Operation Heavy Cargo."

The alleged ringleader, Wilfredo Rodriguez Rosado, 37, surrendered at a federal courthouse Tuesday afternoon, according to his attorney, Luis Rivera. Rodriguez no longer works for the airline and is pleading innocent, Rivera said.

As a part-time American Airlines cargo employee, Rodriguez allegedly recruited others to help pack suitcases with cocaine and deliver them to the airport on pre-loaded airline cargo containers. A member of the drug ring would then pick up the suitcases at mainland airports, according to the indictment.

The defendants, who were arrested in cities near San Juan and in Miami, face charges including

conspiracy and aiding and abetting one another with intent to distribute cocaine. Authorities say they smuggled out cocaine worth more than \$19 million. If convicted they face fines and up to life in prison.

As a U.S. territory, Puerto Rico is a favored transshipment point for South American cocaine and heroin because once the drugs reach the Caribbean island, they do not have to pass through customs on the way to the American market.

The alleged drug ring operated on a freelance basis and contracted their services to several different drug traffickers, according to Javier Pena, the special agent in charge of the DEA in Puerto Rico.

"They lent themselves out to other organizations," Pena told The Associated Press. "They were available to



An unidentified American Airlines employee, center, is detained by agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration during an operation at Puerto Rico's international airport in San Juan, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009.

Associated Press

anyone."

Rodriguez, the prosecutor, defended security at the airport, but said it could be better.

"It has better security than many airports in the United States and I'm sure that now it will be even better," she said.

American spokeswoman Minnette Velez confirmed the arrest of airline employees but gave no details.

"We work with the authorities whenever we identify a situation like this, which is unacceptable," Velez said. "We work to make sure this doesn't happen." □



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NFL Roundup

Rivers leads Chargers past Raiders 24-20

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — Philip Rivers and the San Diego Chargers opened the season doing what they do best: beating the Oakland Raiders.

Rivers answered a pair of go-ahead scores by Oakland by leading two touchdown drives, capped by Darren Sproles' 5-yard run with 18 seconds left that gave the Chargers their 12th straight in this one-sided rivalry, 24-20 Monday night.

This might have been the toughest one of the bunch. JaMarcus Russell had given Oakland a 20-17 lead with a 57-yard touchdown pass to rookie Louis Murphy with 2:34 left. But despite having two backup linemen in the game, Rivers calmly led the Chargers down the field for the winning score.

"One thing I know is no team in this league can practice 2-minute situations as much as we do," Rivers said.

"It's a little different executing it on Murphy Canyon Road as it is in Oakland. ... I said: 'Well, we've done this a million times, let's go score. All we need is three.' I was talking to myself, too."

Rivers was six for seven for 79 yards on the winning drive before Sproles silenced the crowd with his run up the middle. This marked the Raiders' 11th straight loss in prime time and perhaps the most painful, considering how close they came.

"Our football team played its guts out and didn't finish the game," coach Tom Cable said. "That's the bottom line."

Continued on Page B12



San Diego Chargers running back Darren Sproles dances in the end zone after scoring the game-winning touchdown in the fourth quarter against the Oakland Raiders on an NFL football game in Oakland, Calif., Monday, Sept. 14, 2009.

Associated Press



In this Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009, file photo, Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick throws during NFL football practice at team's practice facility in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Eagles add Vick to 53-man roster

ROB MAADDI

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

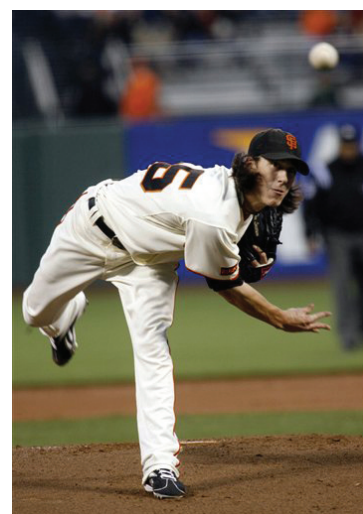
— The Philadelphia Eagles elevated Michael Vick to the team's 53-man roster on Tuesday, a move that allows the quarterback to practice with them.

The Eagles released receiver Hank Baskett to make room for Vick, who is eligible to play on Sept. 27 against the Kansas City Chiefs. Vick will begin practicing with the NFL team on Wednesday, though he cannot play in Sunday's home opener against the New Orleans Saints.

Vick was suspended for the first two regular-season games as the final league penalty for his role in running a dogfighting ring.

Backup quarterback Kevin Kolb is expected to take the snaps with the starters on Wednesday because incumbent Donovan McNabb has a cracked rib. Former San Francisco and Tampa Bay star Jeff Garcia was signed to back up Kolb in case McNabb can't play.

Vick was brought in to give the Eagles another dimension on offense. □



San Francisco Giants pitcher Tim Lincecum throws to the Colorado Rockies in the first inning of a baseball game Monday, Sept. 14, 2009, in San Francisco. The Giants won 9-1.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Tim Lincecum pitched seven strong innings in his return from an injured back and Eugenio Velez drove in four runs as the San Francisco Giants gained ground on the National League wild-card-leading Colorado Rockies

NL Roundup

Lincecum, Molina lead Giants over Rockies 9-1

with a 9-1 victory Monday.

Bengie Molina homered and scored three runs and Aaron Rowand drove in two runs for the Giants, who moved within 3 1/2 games of the Rockies in the wild-card race.

Lincecum, who missed his last start with back spasms, threw 116 pitches and had only one clean inning. He stranded nine runners. Lincecum (14-5) gave up a run and six hits. He walked four and struck out 11 for a league-best 244.

Cubs 2, Brewers 0

At Chicago, Ryan Dempster pitched eight shutout innings and Derrek Lee homered for the seventh time in 10 games to carry Chicago over Milwaukee.

Center fielder Sam Fuld and third baseman Aramis Ramirez made outstanding plays to keep Milwaukee off the board and help the Cubs win for the sixth time in seven games.

Dempster (10-8) allowed four hits, walked one and struck out four to join John Smoltz as the only pitchers to follow three 20-save seasons with two 10-win seasons as a starter. Dodgers 6, Pirates 2

At Los Angeles, Andre Ethier hit a tiebreaking homer and Manny Ramirez had an early RBI double as Los Angeles opened its penultimate regular-season homestand with a victory over Pittsburgh.

Orlando Hudson had three hits and drove in two late runs as

the NL-leading Dodgers (86-59) got hits from all eight starting position players to move back to a season-high 27 games over .500 with their fifth victory in seven games.

Jon Garland (10-11) persevered through six rocky innings to remain unbeaten since joining Los Angeles last month.

The Dodgers secured Garland's second win with the club by tagging rookie Daniel McCutchen (0-2) for seven hits and four runs in the right-hander's third career start.

In other NL games it was, Cincinnati 3, Houston 1; Chicago Cubs 2, Milwaukee 0; St. Louis 11, Florida 6; Arizona 4, San Diego 2, 10 innings; L.A. Dodgers 6, Pittsburgh 2; and San Francisco 9, Colorado 1. □

AL Roundup

It's over! Rays end 11-game skid, beat O's 8-4

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Tampa Bay Rays ended their 11-game losing streak Monday, using a 15-hit attack and an effective pitching performance by David Price to beat the Baltimore Orioles 8-4 in the American League.

The Rays avoided becoming the first World Series team in history to lose 12 in a row the following year. Rookie Reid Brignac had a career-high four hits — his first big league homer, two doubles and a single — and B.J. Upton also connected for Tampa Bay.

Held to eight runs in their previous seven games, the Rays equaled that amount by the fifth inning. Tampa Bay, which batted .183 during its 11-game skid, hadn't had as many as 15 hits in a game since Aug. 24 against Toronto.

Yankees 5, Angels 3

At New York, Mark Teixeira hit a two-run triple on a play that caused Angels center fielder Torii Hunter to lose a shoe, then doubled to start the go-ahead rally in the eighth inning that led New York over Los Angeles in a possible

playoff preview.

New York broke a 3-all tie when pinch-runner Brett Gardner took third as part of a double steal and came home as catcher Mike Napoli bounced the throw past third baseman Chone Figgins for an error. Robinson Cano added a run-scoring single, and Mariano Rivera finished to reach 40 saves for the first time in four years and the seventh time in his career.

Tigers 6, Blue Jays 5, 10 innings

At Detroit, Marco Scutaro's second error of the game allowed Brandon Inge to score from second base in the bottom of the 10th inning as Detroit rallied to beat Toronto,

Pinch-hitter Aubrey Huff belted a tying three-run homer in the ninth and Ryan Raburn also went deep for the American League Central-leading Tigers.

Adam Lind and Edwin Encarnacion homered for Toronto.

Brian Wolfe (1-2) walked Inge and Curtis Granderson with one out in the 10th. Alex

Avila then hit a grounder to first baseman Lyle Overbay. Scutaro couldn't handle his throw to second and Inge was able to slide home with the winning run.

Athletics 9, Rangers 0

At Arlington, Texas, Brett Tomko pitched a five-hitter for his 100th major league win as Oakland dealt a blow to Texas' playoff hopes.

Released by the New York Yankees on July 29, Tomko (5-3) struck out three and didn't walk a batter in his second career shutout and 13th complete game. He beat Scott Feldman, snapping the right-hander's seven-game winning streak.

The Rangers have lost three of their first four on a nine-game homestand, falling 4 1/2 games behind Boston for the AL wild card. It's the farthest Texas has been out of a playoff spot all season.

Twins 6, Indians 3

At Minneapolis, Michael Cuddyer's tying three-run homer rescued Minnesota in the eighth inning, ruining a fine start for Cleveland by



Tampa Bay Rays B.J. Upton, right, congratulates Reid Brignac after his two-run home run against the Baltimore Orioles in the second inning of a baseball game, Monday, Sept. 14, 2009, in Baltimore. The Rays won 8-4.

Associated Press

Jeremy Sowers in a victory over the Indians.

Sowers stymied the Twins with his jerky left-handed delivery and left with a 3-0 lead after seven innings. Reliever Tony Sipp let the first two batters reach base in the eighth, though, the first coming on an error by shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera.

Indians manager Eric Wedge

summoned the right-handed Chris Perez to face Cuddyer, who crushed a fastball into the stacks of football seats behind center field.

In other AL it was, N.Y. Yankees 5, L.A. Angels 3; Tampa Bay 8, Baltimore 4; Detroit 6, Toronto 5, 10 innings; Oakland 9, Texas 0; and Minnesota 6, Cleveland 3. □



Tiger Woods watches his approach to the 18th hole during the final round of the BMW Championship golf tournament in Lemont, Ill., Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009. Woods won the tournament with a 19-under 265. Woods has won the BMW Championship for his sixth victory of the year, assuring himself the No. 1 ranking going into the final tournament of the FedEx Cup.

DOUG FERGUSON**AP Golf Writer**

LEMONT, Illinois (AP) — U.S. PGA Tour officials would like you to believe no trophy is tougher to win than the FedEx Cup.

They may be right.

The trick is not to mistake difficulty for significance. The most important trophies are handed out four times a year

Associated Press in the major championships, which define great players (Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods) and identify others (Jack Fleck, Shaun Micheel).

What makes the FedEx Cup so difficult to win?

Woods has been saying for the last dozen years that the key to winning majors is to peak at the right time, which means having your game come

together for one week in April, June, July and August.

Playing the best golf in the final week of September at the U.S. Tour Championship to win the FedEx Cup isn't necessarily enough.

Players first have to qualify for the 30-man field at East Lake, a process that could take all year (Woods, Steve Stricker), one month (Padraig Harrington, Marc Leishman) or one week (Heath Slocum).

Even with points worth quintuple value in the playoffs, everyone at East Lake is inside the top 50 on the U.S. money list. Woods is the No. 1 player in the world and — at the moment — in the FedEx Cup. His six victories are twice as many as anyone else, the most recent win coming at last week's BMW Championship

in the third playoff event.

But if he doesn't win the Tour Championship, there's a chance someone else will be kissing the cup.

Although Woods has the most victories, has won the most money, and has the best scoring average, he had not studied the points system when he arrived at The Barclays to begin the playoffs. He was deflated to learn he could win all three playoff events, finish second at the Tour Championship and lose the FedEx Cup. Even more disheartening was to hear that someone could capture the FedEx Cup without ever having won a tournament all year. Mathematically possible, but logical? You be the judge. Jim Furyk, who has not won in more than two years, could win the FedEx Cup by

finishing third at East Lake. That would require Woods finishing eighth and Stricker fourth. It can happen.

And that would be the nightmare scenario for the U.S. PGA Tour.

Woods understands the analogy of the NFL's New England Patriots going undefeated and losing the Super Bowl. He also raises an important distinction.

"That's their biggest prize," he said.

Not so in golf.

Maybe that's why too much time is spent on what the FedEx Cup is not, instead of considering what it is — a competition that brings together the best players on the tour when they otherwise might be home.

Continued on Next Page



Oakland Raiders linebacker Kirk Morrison, left, gestures after San Diego Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers, right, was sacked during the first quarter of an NFL football game Monday, Sept. 14, 2009, in Oakland, Calif.

NFL ROUNDUP

Continued from Page B10

They took a 13-10 lead early in the fourth quarter on a 35-yard field goal by Sebastian Janikowski before Rivers drove the Chargers down and gave them the lead with a 15-yard touchdown pass to Vincent Jackson. Then Russell's fourth-down pass to Murphy looked as if it would provide an emphatic end to a pair of losing streaks. Instead, it was just a footnote to Oakland's league-worst 73rd loss since the start of the 2003 season.

The Chargers offense looked

Associated Press
overmatched for much of the night against newly acquired Richard Seymour and the Raiders defense. Injuries to center Nick Hardwick and guard Louis Vasquez in the third quarter made moving the ball even tougher for San Diego and the frustration led Rivers to commit a personal foul that thwarted one drive. But the two last drives were the reason why the Chargers gave Rivers a six-year contract extension worth \$93 million, with \$38 million guaranteed, last month. He finished 24 for 36 for 252 yards, playing his best when

it counted most. "People talk about quarterbacks that handle pressure, that respond and lead their teams from behind," Chargers coach Norv Turner said. "He's done it continuously and he's done it in some real difficult situations like tonight. It's great to get the win here." Russell nearly had overcome a rough night with that one pass to Murphy. Russell was 12 for 30 for 208 yards and two interceptions, including one on a desperation heave following Sproles' TD. Oakland got a big boost from Seymour, who arrived from New England two days ago and didn't even go through a full practice with his new team. He sacked Rivers twice in the first half and helped Oakland keep longtime nemesis LaDainian Tomlinson in check. Tomlinson, who averaged 119 yards rushing per game against Oakland coming into the game, managed only 55 on 13 carries. But Sproles helped out with two long kickoff returns, five catches for 43 yards and the winning touchdown. The Raiders dominated the play in the first half, outgaining the Chargers 217-74, but were still tied at 10 because of two turnovers, and a replay review that went against Oakland. With the offensive line creating big holes, Darren McFadden and Michael Bush ran the ball down the field on the opening drive before Russell threw an interception from the San Diego 25 to Quentin Jammer.

GOLF PLAYOFF

Continued from Previous Page

"There's too much comparing going on," Stewart Cink said. Every shot counted for the first nine months, and it counted even more in the last three weeks. It counts the most at East Lake.

While it is easy to poke fun of the points system, this version worked beautifully. The eight players with multiple victories this year all qualified for Atlanta. So did the four major champions. And with an emphasis on the last three playoff events, seven players outside the top 30 when the playoffs began made it to the Tour Championship by playing great golf.

If there is a problem, it comes at the finish line.

The Tour Championship used to be a meaningful event only by accident. The last time was in 2003, when Woods and Vijay Singh were battling for the money title and campaigning for player of the year.

This one promises to be meaningful, but at what cost?

There is no guarantee the best player will win the FedEx Cup. Tour officials made sure of that by resetting the points after three playoff events so that all 30 players at East Lake have a mathematical chance. The top five need no help from anyone; they only have to win the Tour Championship to collect the prize.

Yet if the tour had left the system alone, there was a chance of the golf's Super Bowl having as much interest as a preseason game.

"The whole idea of the playoffs was for us to get into the top five," Woods said. "And now, it's basically a sprint. It's one tournament, a sprint, assuming one of the top five guys wins the tournament."

The FedEx Cup pays out \$10 million to the winner. The value of the trophy will depend on the name inscribed on it. □

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EEUU preocupado por crisis hondureña

TEGUCIGALPA (AP) - La secretaria norteamericana de Estado, Hillary Clinton, lamentó que Honduras conmemorara el martes el aniversario de la independencia en forma dividida, tras el derrocamiento del presidente Manuel Zelaya el 28 de junio. “La confusión y las diferencias políticas que han dividido a Honduras son fuente de preocupación y tristeza (para Estados Unidos)”, afirmó Clinton en un mensaje distribuido el martes por la embajada estadounidense en Tegucigalpa. Centroamérica celebra la independencia de España, concretada el 15 de setiembre de 1821. La efeméride encontró a Honduras sumido en una crisis política que mantiene divididos a los partidarios de Zelaya y del régimen de facto de Roberto Micheletti. “Tengo la esperanza de que el espíritu de Francisco Morazán, fundador

y líder visionario de Honduras, ayudará a volver al país a un camino democrático que unirá e inspirará en lugar de dividir y desalentar, y reconstruirá los lazos de solidaridad que han caracterizado su relación (de Honduras) con las Américas”, dijo Clinton. Washington retiró la semana pasada su ayuda humanitaria a Honduras y amenazó con recrudecer acciones similares para presionar a Micheletti a buscar una rápida salida democrática. El Consejo de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas prohibió el martes la participación del representante del gobierno de facto hondureño Delmer Urbizo en su reunión en Ginebra después de las protestas de algunos países latinoamericanos. El Frente de Resistencia Nacional Contra el Golpe de Estado, que exige el retorno de Zelaya, celebró la independencia con una



Soldados resguardan el área donde habrá conmemoraciones por el día de la independencia de España, en 1821, dos meses después del golpe de estado al presidente Manuel Zelaya. (AP Photo/Esteban Felix)

caminata al parque Central, donde congregó a miles de simpatizantes. El líder de los opositores al golpe de Estado, Rafael

Alegría, dijo a la AP que “la actividad de la resistencia es contraria a la del gobierno porque nosotros estamos orientados a convocar a una

asamblea constituyente que reforme la ley fundamental para refundar el país”. Por esa iniciativa, los militares derrocaron a Zelaya. □

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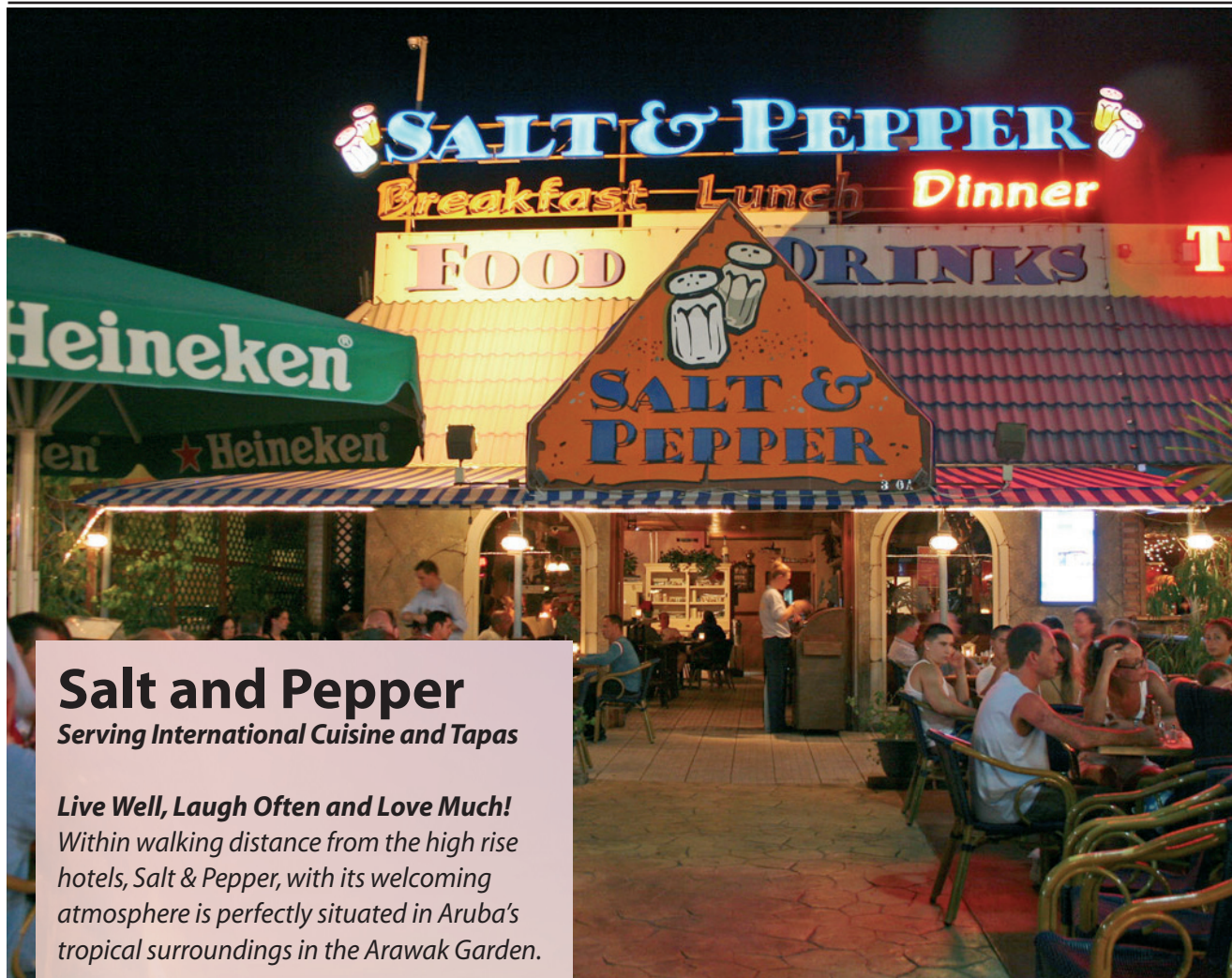
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